

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE OQUAWKA REACH: LOCK 18 UPPER, FURNAL ISLAND, AND OQUAWKA DREDGE CUTS UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER MILES 411.0-415.2**

I have reviewed the information in this Environmental Assessment, along with data obtained from Federal and State agencies having jurisdiction by law or special expertise, and from the interested public. I find that the placement of dredged material in three new sites—one floodplain agricultural site, one floodplain non-agricultural site, and one upland levee placement—would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, it is my determination that an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) is not required. This determination will be reevaluated if warranted by later developments.

Alternatives considered along with the preferred action were:

- No Project
- No Change
- Floodplain
- Bankline
- Upland
- Thalweg

Factors considered in making the determination that an EIS was not required are as follows:

- a. Implementation of the project, as proposed, represents the least environmentally damaging alternative, with acceptable mitigation for lost wetland functions and values from the use of Sites 3, 5, and 8.
- b. The proposed project would not significantly affect water quality of the Mississippi River or cultural/historic resources.
- c. The proposed project would have no effect on federally or state listed endangered or threatened species.
- d. Impacts of farmland conversion to non-agricultural uses have been considered. Measures to avoid and/or minimize effects of farmland conversion have been considered. The project, as proposed, would not constitute an unnecessary or frivolous conversion of farmland.
- e. The implementation of the project as proposed would not result in increases in cost or prices for consumers, individual industries, and Federal, State, or local government agencies, nor would it impair, in any way, the ability of the U.S. to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic or export markets.
- f. The preferred alternative provides the best long-term solution to the dredging problems at these chronic dredge cuts. The preferred alternative has been identified as the Base Plan (Federal Standard).
- g. The proposed project has identified and taken into account cumulative impacts and would not exceed any known biological or social threshold.

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Date

William J. Bayles  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer